

Appln No. 10/731,385
Amdt date January 22, 2008
Reply to Office action of November 27, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above identified patent application has been amended and reconsideration and reexamination are hereby requested.

Claims 1-18 and 23-25 are now pending in the application. Claims 19-22 have been previously canceled. Claim 9 has been amended. The Examiner has allowed claims 1-8, 16-18, and 23-35, stating that the prior art neither teaches nor suggests in particular the limitation the "conductive layer having a portion extending beyond the sealant as an anode input terminal to which an anode voltage is applied." As such, the limitation has been added to Claim 9.

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 9-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toyota et al. (US 6,900,066) in view of Morimoto et al. (US 4,472,658).

The amended Claim 9 includes "... wherein the illumination assembly includes (a) a conductive layer located on a surface of the second substrate, the conductive layer having a portion extending beyond the sealant as an anode input terminal to which an anode voltage is applied, (b) a phosphor screen located adjacent the conductive layer, and (c) a metal layer located on the phosphor screen within the vacuum assembly, a portion of the metal layer contacting and electrically connected to the conductive layer" and "wherein an end of the anode input terminal within the vacuum assembly contacts both the phosphor screen and the metal layer." The Applicant submits that the above limitations as claimed in Claim 9 are neither taught nor suggested nor are an obvious result from a reasonable combination of the teachings in the references Toyota et al. and Morimoto et al., alone or in combination.

Toyota et al., while providing for phosphor layer 31 and anode electrode 33 on the phosphor layer 31, and Morimoto et al., while providing for transparent leads 2c, does not disclose "wherein the illumination assembly includes (a) a conductive layer located on a surface of the second substrate, the conductive layer having a portion extending beyond the sealant as an anode input terminal to which an anode voltage is applied, (b) a phosphor screen located adjacent the conductive layer, and (c) a metal layer located on the phosphor screen within the vacuum

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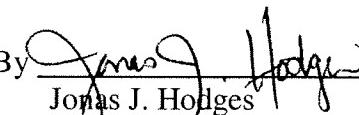
assembly, a portion of the metal layer contacting and electrically connected to the conductive layer." In addition, the limitation "wherein an end of the anode input terminal within the vacuum assembly contacts both the phosphor screen and the metal layer" is not disclosed in Toyota et al. or Morimoto et al., nor is the limitation an obvious result from a reasonable combination of the teachings in the references Toyota et al. and Morimoto et al., alone or in combination.

Accordingly, the Applicant submits that the cited references do not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations, and therefore Claim 9 is patentable over Toyota et al. in view of Morimoto et al.

Claims 10-15 are dependent on Claim 9 and therefore include all of the limitations of Claim 9 and additional limitations therein. As such, these claims are also allowable based upon Claim 9 and the additional limitations therein.

Therefore, in view of the above amendment and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. As such, allowance of the above Application is requested. If there are any remaining issues that can be addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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